

I'm writing this first comment to demonstrate how easy it is to be heard on the issues at the FCC. I will be urging my readers and listeners to make their voices heard as well, whether they agree with my opinions or not.

In particular, I want to call the Commission's attention to the public interest in fast Internet connections, far more important than the commercial interests who normally file. Congressman Tauzin is wrong in this opinion quoted by the Washington Post. "The major combatants here are the long-distance telephone companies who are attempting to keep the Bell companies out of their business and on the other hand they are allied with the new competitive local telephone companies who want to get into the Bells business. "

The major party in fact is the hundreds of millions of Americans who can benefit from the fast Internet, and particularly the distinctive voices it can carry. Will providers limit people's access to video speed Net content? Will they become gatekeepers on the Internet?

This is the crucial freedom of speech issue for the next decade - can the new programs that Mike Powell dreams of be carried to all, and from all, via the Internet?

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